

**Newington Parks & Recreation
Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 8, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 7:07 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Jeff Perillo, Bob Tofeldt, Neal Forte, Don Woods, Mary Udice, Eileen Francolino, Jeff Hedberg, Jon Boni

Board Members Absent:

Ken Lego, John Kennedy, Bill Deblasio

Staff:

Bruce Till and Karen Gallicchio

Town Council Liaison:

Tom Bowen and Jay Bottalico

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2009

Neal Forte made a correction to the minutes in the Public Participation section apologizing for not being at the last meeting and informing us that Pam Madrazo's father (Bob Gai) was informed within a week of the golf tournament being cancelled.

Motion: Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2009; Bob Tofeldt seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2009 was approved with a 7-0 vote with 1 abstention.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE AT THIS CURRENT TIME

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent:

Extravaganza:

- Bruce Till informed the Board that the next Extravaganza meeting will be on April 21, 2009 at 6:00 PM and that everything is in good shape.

Budget:

- Bruce Till informed the Board that the Town Council went ahead and put additional money into the Parks and Recreation CIP account. Total account standings are \$225,000.
- Bruce also informed the Board that the neighborhood playgrounds need major work and that their repairs are in the Master Plan. Beechwood Park will be the first neighborhood park to be worked on. If replaced, the total cost for equipment will be \$15,000, and the total cost of labor and groundwork will be \$30,000-\$35,000.
- The Board requested that they be more informed of where the money will be spent.
- Jeff Perillo asked if the playground repairs needed were the result of vandalism. Bruce responded that Mill Pond Park is currently the only park with a vandalism problem.
- Bruce informed the Board that if Parks and Grounds did the repairs, he would have the official playground professionals come in to inspect and sign off on the playgrounds to ensure that the repairs had been done correctly. Bruce also stated that he wants to make sure we have the money before we promise the community anything. The Board agreed that the playgrounds should be repaired.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Badger Field:

- Bruce informed the Board that the demolition of the concession stand has been completed and they are going to go ahead with the new building.

Mill Pond Park:

- Bruce informed the Board that they ordered some new equipment from past CIP's and that last week Parks and Grounds completed replacing a section of the damaged playground equipment.
- Bruce is trying to make it a point to fix as much as possible so we do not have to replace the entire playground in the future.
- Bruce is confident that we will be able to continue to fix some of the problems at Mill (i.e., water problems, etc.).
- Bruce also informed the Board that approximately five decks, slides and other playground equipment have been replaced. Major posts are starting to peel, which is something they should not do--Bruce will be checking the warranty to ensure that we can get it fixed.
- Eileen inquired about the rose gardens because they were in need of care.

Golf Tournament:

- Bruce informed the Board that the tournament is back to the original date of May 11, 2009 with the shotgun at 12:30 PM. They are in the process of working on sponsors and tee signs as well as other details.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Personnel:

- Bruce informed the Board that he had interviewed and hired 4 new seasonal Parks and Grounds' staff members who started on Monday, April 6.
- Bruce also informed the Board that the interview process will begin next week for the Parks & Recreation Department Special Events Coordinator part time position.

Meeting Time:

- Bruce inquired about the meeting day of the Board meetings and asked if it were possible to switch it to a night other than Wednesday.

MOTION:

Don Woods made a motion to move the meeting time to 7:30 PM on the third Tuesday of every month; Neal Forte seconded the motion. The motion to move the meeting time to the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM was unanimously approved with an 8-0 vote.

Questions/notifications:

- Bob Tofeldt inquired about the bucket truck and if we had put any thought into putting money aside for it and discussed the fact that we would save money in the long run.
- Karen Gallicchio inquired about a new popcorn machine because the one that the Department had currently owned was destroyed when the concession stand was vandalized. There was no issue from anyone in attendance with the Department purchasing a new popcorn machine, and Don Woods stated that we should place it on the wish list for after the Golf Tournament.
- Jay Bottalico inquired about the \$2,000 grant to see if it was still available to Newington Little League.
- Jeff Perillo informed the Board that a Newington Football Coach had passed away and the football team would like to do a memorial for him. All of the work, upkeep and finances will be taken care of by themselves—they are only requesting permission to set aside a space at the football field at the Clem Lemire complex for the memorial.

MOTION:

Jeff Perillo made a motion to use the space at the football field at the Clem Lemire complex for a memorial of the coach that recently passed away. Don Woods seconded. All were in favor, and the motion for space to place a memorial has been approved with an 8-0 vote.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Don Woods made a motion to adjourn; Neal Forte seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 7:58 PM with an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Nardi
Parks and Recreation Board Secretary

Date